

Amendments to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A stretcher supporter, comprising:

~~an open~~ a frame having a lifting arm;

~~a center rail; and comprising:~~

a pair of substantially rigid generally arch shaped stretcher attachment elements ~~that securely attach a stretcher to said open frame,~~ wherein each generally arched stretcher attachment element has an apex formed with an opening that engages the center rail preventing rotation of the stretcher attachment element with respect to the center rail and wherein each generally arched stretcher attachment element has a pair of ends ~~that can be~~ each positioned generally adjacent to a corner of ~~[[the]]~~ a stretcher substantially longitudinally aligned with the center rail; and

~~an adjustable lifting point connected to the center rail for suspending said open frame;~~
and

~~a shiftable, rotatable~~ a generally T-shaped attachment mechanism including a column and an elongated sleeve generally perpendicularly mounted to the column, wherein the sleeve slideably engages the center rail such that the center rail is rotatably coupled to the frame lifting arm and ~~[[that]]~~ substantially balances said stretcher ~~respective~~ with respect to said ~~[[open]]~~ frame.

2. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said ~~adjustable lifting point~~ generally T-shaped attachment mechanism comprises a plunger mechanism that engages the center rail.

3. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 2, wherein said plunger mechanism further comprises a spring loaded pin and a series of holes, and wherein said spring loaded pin is insertable into any one of said holes.

4. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 3, wherein said series of holes are about one inch apart.

5. (Original) The adjustable supporter of claim 1, wherein said generally T-shaped attachment mechanism is securely positioned by a constricting pressure mechanism.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, ~~wherein said at least four attachment points further comprise~~ further comprising hooks at the ends of each generally arch shaped stretcher attachment element ~~for said secure attachment of said stretcher.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said ~~[[open]]~~ frame is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, and fiberglass.

10. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said ~~[[open]]~~ frame comprises cables.

11. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, ~~wherein said adjustable lifting point is adjusted by an~~ further comprising an electrical motor coupled to the frame.

12. (Currently Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 11, ~~wherein said adjustable lifting point is controlled by a~~ further comprising a computing device operatively coupled to the electrical motor to cause the electrical motor to move the lifting arm.

13-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A device for lifting and lowering a person, comprising:

an elongated member;

a stretcher;

at least two elongated arms extending outwardly from the elongated member and engaging the stretcher, wherein each arm is coupled to the elongated member so as to prevent rotation of the engaged stretcher with respect to the elongated member;

a floor-standing frame; and

an attachment mechanism suspending the elongated member from the floor-standing frame such that the elongated member is slideably and rotatably coupled to the floor-standing frame and substantially balances the engaged stretcher with respect to the floor-standing frame.

22. (New) The device of Claim 21, wherein said attachment mechanism comprises a plunger mechanism that engages the elongated member.

23. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein said elongated member comprises a plurality of holes, and wherein said plunger mechanism engages ones of said holes.